



**International**

**NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES CONVENTION**

**SPAIN RATIFIES CONVENTION:** A Spanish decree ratifying the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries was published in the Official Bulletin of April 27, 1952. The instrument of Spanish ratification was deposited in Washington on January 17, 1952.

This Convention has already been ratified by Canada, Denmark, Iceland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. France, Italy, Norway, and Portugal, which are also signatories of this Convention, have not yet deposited instruments of ratification.



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION**

**WORLD FISHERIES--ESTIMATED ANNUAL CATCHES, 1949:** The total annual output of world fisheries is not known in accurate terms, but a Food and Agriculture Organization estimate places it at about 25 million metric tons for 1949. In the FAO Yearbook of Fisheries Statistics 1948-49, this total is broken down by continents and countries. The continental breakdown is shown in table 1.

Continent	Metric Tons	Percent
Africa .....	600,000	2
America, North and Central ...	3,750,000	15
America, South .....	500,000	2
Asia (excluding U.S.S.R.) ....	12,000,000	48
Europe (excluding U.S.S.R.) ..	6,000,000	24
Oceania .....	150,000	1
U.S.S.R. ....	2,000,000	8
World Total .....	25,000,000	100

<sup>1</sup>/IN SOME CASES STATISTICS FOR YEARS PRIOR TO 1949 ARE USED.

The ten most important fish-producing countries of the world were in order of importance in terms of catch<sup>1</sup> (in millions of metric tons): Japan (2.9), China (2.7), United States (2.5), U.S.S.R. (2.0), Norway (1.1), United Kingdom (1.1), Canada (0.9), Spain (0.6), India (0.5),

and the German Federal Republic (0.5). These countries with a catch of about 15 million tons account for some 60 percent of the world's total.

As far as is known, nothing has been published on a world-wide basis regarding the relative importance of the various species caught. Table 2 indicates roughly the composition of the catch by some species groups as estimated by the FAO secretariat.

There is, of course, a clear relation between capital equipment and efficiency of fishermen. The total world catch divided between 4 million fishermen leaves only about 6 tons per man. In a modern tuna clipper or trawler, or large seine boat, each

<sup>1</sup>/IN SOME CASES STATISTICS FOR YEARS PRIOR TO 1949 ARE USED.

man produces more, while those in a dug-out canoe or without craft at all, produce well below the average. Thus, great differences in economic planning, financial remuneration, and standard of living exist among people earning their living from the sea.

Table 2 - World Fisheries--Estimated Annual Catches By Species, 1949

Catch by Species Groups	Metric Tons	% of Total
Herring and similar species .....	5,200,000	21
Cod, hake, and similar species .....	3,400,000	14
Salmon and similar species .....	500,000	2
Fresh and brackish-water teleosteans .....	4,700,000	19
Teleostean flat fishes .....	600,000	2
Tunas, true mackerels, etc. ....	1,400,000	6
Elasmobranchs .....	400,000	1
Other fish species <sup>1/</sup> .....	6,400,000	25
Crustaceans and mollusks .....	2,000,000	8
Other (seaweed, etc.) .....	400,000	2
World Total .....	25,000,000	100

<sup>1/</sup>MAY INCLUDE SOME QUANTITIES OF THE LISTED SPECIES GROUPS.

On examining the external trade statistics of nearly 70 territories, accounting for almost all international trade in fisheries products, it was found that some 2 million metric tons of fishery products (product weight) enter into international trade (not accounting for whale and other aquatic mammal products). About 10 percent is accounted for by canned products; 25 percent by fresh and frozen products; 25 percent salted, dried, smoked and otherwise cured; 20 percent fish oils; 10 percent meals; and 10 percent by miscellaneous products. If the weight of these products is converted roughly to the weight of the round fresh fish used to manufacture them, it is found that they were derived from some 5 million tons or possibly more. It can safely be stated, therefore, that some 20-30 percent of the world's fish catch passes through international trade channels.

Table 3 - Utilization of World Fisheries Production, 1949 (Estimated)

Utilized for:	Metric Tons	% of Total
Fresh marketing .....	10,370,000	42
Freezing .....	1,070,000	4
Drying, smoking, salting, & pastes & sauces .....	9,820,000	39
Canning .....	1,290,000	5
Reduction to oils & meal ..	1,950,000	8
Other purposes .....	500,000	2
World Total .....	25,000,000	100

These figures are in many cases derived from very rough estimates; in the case of China, for example, total production in fish ponds was arrived at by relating an estimated minimum average yield per square kilometer to the total known area of fish ponds; in other cases, a conservative estimate of per capita consumption was made in relation to total population figures. As a whole, it is felt that estimates for Asia are less reliable than those for the other continents, but over-all they are considered to be fairly close to reality. It is very unlikely, therefore, that the actual world total exceeds 30 million metric tons, even if all subsistence fishing is taken into account.



## Bermuda

DANISH VESSELS TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTAL FISHING IN BERMUDA WATERS: A Danish importer who plans to fish along the Peruvian coast stopped at Bermuda en route to Peru in order to discuss with the local authorities the possibility of experimental fishing in Bermuda waters, according to the March 28 and April 3 issues of Dansk Fiskeritidende, a Danish trade paper. The local government was reported to be very much interested and it was agreed by the Danish-Peruvian Company that the two Danish cutters which recently departed from Hundested for Peru would spend a couple months in Bermuda to determine if there is an opportunity to develop a fishery similar to that in Peru.

The vessels are equipped with a brisling seine, a tuna seine, and all kinds of trawl gear, including four floating trawls. Other types of gear are Danish seines, herring gill nets, lines of various types, and special gear (such as gill nets for bonito).



## Canada

NEW NEWFOUNDLAND FILLETING PLANTS TO RECEIVE GOVERNMENT AID: A new filleting plant is being constructed at Fermeuse, Newfoundland, states a May 15 American consular dispatch from St. John's. The Newfoundlander who is constructing the new plant is the principal motivator in another Newfoundland fishery firm. At the request of the firm, the Government has assisted this latter company in acquiring two draggers by relinquishing a mortgage held on the firm's property at Harbour Grace. In addition, the Government is guaranteeing a loan of C\$350,000 to assist in the purchase of two other draggers for use at Fermeuse. On a third occasion the "Government waived the right of the repayment of principal (amounting to C\$20,000) of a loan made to the company by Commission of Government, deferring payments for a period of one year so that the company could complete plans for expansion."

The plant at Fermeuse is not yet in production, but the machinery has already been installed. It appears the plant will be of good size.

On May 7, 1952, the Newfoundland Premier announced in the Assembly that it was "likely" a new C\$600,000 fish plant will be constructed at Trepassey, on the south coast of the Avalon Peninsula. A St. John's fishery firm will build this new filleting plant providing the Government will furnish the backing.

\* \* \* \* \*

SHRIMP FOUND IN NEWFOUNDLAND WATERS: The Twillingate Sun (May 3, 1952) reports that shrimp are to be found in Newfoundland waters, particularly off the east and west coasts where they were discovered a little over a year ago by the government's exploratory boat Investigator. No one yet knows the extent of the resource but an investigation undoubtedly will be made, states a May 16 American consular dispatch from St. John's.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWFOUNDLAND LOBSTER FISHERY: Lobster fishermen in Newfoundland this year are having a better season than last. Prices being paid range from 22 to 24 Canadian cents per pounds, according to an April report. Inspectors are in the field checking on fishermen to see that new regulations respecting minimum-size lobsters are obeyed.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWFOUNDLAND SALT-FISH SALES TO EUROPE TO BE HANDLED IN DOLLARS: With news from Ottawa that Newfoundland's salt-fish sales to Europe henceforth must be handled in Canadian dollars and not sterling, an end came to the financial device which played a very useful part in supporting the Island's economy following World War II, and which permitted Newfoundland to sell to countries relatively rich in sterling but poor in dollars. With Newfoundland's national debt largely in sterling debentures, it was happily possible to figure in British currency. Apparently customers are able to pay in dollars this year; in any case, negotiations must be conducted on this basis.

NOTE: SEE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW, OCTOBER 1951, P. 24.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEWFOUNDLAND HOPES FOR HIGH OUTPUT OF SEAL OIL: Following a successful year of sealing in 1951, when some 620,000 gallons of seal oil were produced (or 60 per-



cent more than in 1950), a slightly greater number of sealing vessels from Newfoundland started out for the sealing grounds early in March this year, according to an American consular dispatch from St. John's. In addition to the 14 Newfoundland vessels, carrying some 700 men there were 11 Norwegian and one French craft scheduled to operate in the seal fishery.

Most of the Newfoundland sealers were to go to the so-called "Northern Front" area along with some 3 or 4 vessels from Halifax and 2 from Norway. The Newfoundland sealing interests chartered a plane to do "spotting" from the air, a most advantageous form of assistance in hunting.

An agreement between the Canadian and Norwegian governments had been reached on March 5 as the opening date for killing seals in the Gulf, and March 10 on the Northern Front. However, a closing date had not yet been decided.

A problem which has caused some concern among Newfoundland sealing interests, and which ultimately will require settlement, is the competition from Norwegian vessels in Newfoundland waters. Newfoundland sealers contend that foreign craft should not be permitted to take seals within the 3-mile limit.

There is a real need for restrictions on the rate of killing seals in the Newfoundland area, according to officials of the Fisheries Council of Canada. It states that killings seem "definitely more than the present seal population can stand indefinitely." The kill in 1951 is estimated to have been more than twice the average number killed in 1947-50. Should it be proved after further aerial studies that the seal population is being reduced, then the need for a Canadian-Norwegian agreement to limit the annual kill would be established.

Prices for seal fat in 1952 have changed little from 1951. Last year young hoods brought C\$10.00 per hundred pounds, harps C\$9.00, bedlamers C\$5.50, and old harps and old hoods C\$4.50 per hundred pounds.

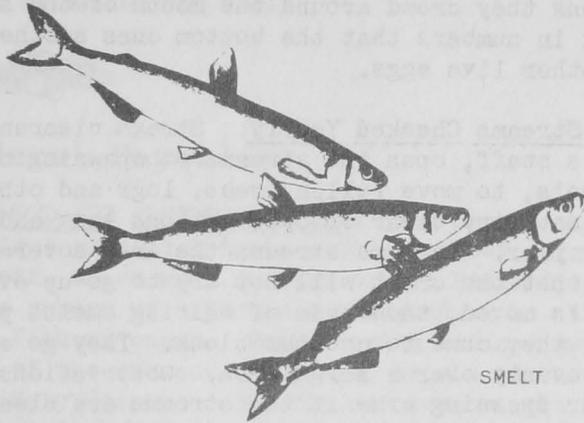
Sealing operations in 1951 were the most successful in many years. A total of about 440,000 seals was taken by ships from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Norway.

Sealing activities in Newfoundland have had a hard, uphill fight for survival in recent years. Costs of outfitting sealing vessels have soared. Thus, smaller craft with less storage space and reduced living quarters have replaced the larger old-style vessels. Consequently, the crews of the newer vessels are necessarily smaller, and the carrying capacity more restricted. Moreover, crews are less eager to go out to the ice floes, preferring the more lucrative and less hazardous occupations ashore.

\* \* \* \* \*

SMELT PRODUCTION DECLINES: Unfavorable weather, coupled with an apparent scarcity of fish, has caused a sharp decline in the catches of smelt, a highly prized food fish landed by Canadian Atlantic coast fishermen, reports the March 1952 Trade News of the Canadian Fisheries Department.

For the period from September 1951 to February 1952 smelt production in the Maritime area reached only 3,637,000 pounds, with a value of C\$623,000. This was only about half the catch made during the same period of 1950 and 1951, when 7,847,000 pounds were taken, with a landed value of C\$1,027,950. Prices have been higher this season, the average being C\$17.15 per hundred pounds. The previous season's price for the same period was C\$13.10 per hundred pounds.



The drop in smelt catches is particularly significant in New Brunswick. For the September-February period just past, smelt catches in New Brunswick totaled only 2,146,000 pounds, compared to 4,865,000 pounds for the same period last season.

Smelt catches of commercial size are made in many Maritime centers. However, the major portion comes from the New Brunswick counties of Northumberland and Kent, with the estuary of the Miramichi River in northeastern New Brunswick providing one-third of the annual Canadian catch. The commercial fishery is carried on mainly in the winter by means of box nets and bag nets set under the ice. In other districts some fishing is also done with gill nets.

Types of Gear: On the Miramichi, the type of gear most widely used is a double-ended box net and a net called a "double-double" box net. The last named apparatus is a box net with four leaders instead of one, developed by the fishermen in the last few years. It is an efficient trap, capturing the smelt from whatever direction they come. Bag nets are used in the early part of the season, starting the first of December, in the main Miramichi River. This is a deep-water operation and has been a failure in the past few years because of too much ice.

In Newfoundland and Labrador the smelt is of little commercial importance. The small fishery there has been confined to the Port au Port Bay and St. Georges Bay areas of the southwest coast of Newfoundland. Prior to 1939, there was a small commercial fishery at the northern tip of Newfoundland.

Distributed from Labrador to New Jersey, smelt are abundant in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and off New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. They live in bays and harbors in open water rather than on the bottom. Some lakes contain a "land-locked" variety.

Smelt move into estuaries from the open sea each autumn and remain there during the winter. After the spring "breakup" they run into the coastal streams to spawn in the fresh and brackish water.

The Miramichi smelt fishery has been studied by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada to determine means of increasing smelt production. These studies have been conducted by the Board's biological station at St. Andrews, N. B. Scientists at this station have sought to bring about a greater yield by the improvement of conditions for reproduction and by sound regulation of the fishery. Their observations and experiments showed that the smelts that come to the Miramichi to spawn find sometimes that the streams are impassable because of obstructions. When this happens they crowd around the mouth of the stream and spawn there. The eggs are so thick in numbers that the bottom ones smother and rot, with serious effects on all the other live eggs.

Streams Checked Yearly: Stream clearance crews, under direction of the station's staff, open the streams at spawning time, using saws, axes, peavies, and other tools, to move fallen trees, logs and other debris in the channels. A stream does not stay clear of obstructions long and the crews have to look at all streams every year. In some streams the area covered amounts to about two miles. The crews find that the smelt will not try to go up even a small waterfall. When an obstruction is moved, thousands of waiting smelts pour through the opening, moving upstream until they come to another block. They go as far as they can, thus spreading the eggs evenly over a large area. Observations show that the smelts make use of a much larger spawning area if the streams are cleared and that eggs are less crowded and hatch better.

The smelt, capelin, and silverside (small, slender, silvery fishes which occur in Canadian Atlantic waters) are three distinct marine species yet look so much alike that some fishermen and many of the general public confuse them. Even in the adult stage, smelt and capelin may often be confused and the silverside, particularly in the young stages, has frequently been mistaken for a young smelt or a capelin.

The smelt is translucent olive-green on the back, paler on the sides, and has a silvery belly. It is from four to nine inches long when taken commercially, with an occasional 12-inch fish entering the catch.



## Formosa

FISHERIES PRODUCTION GOAL FOR 1952: The Provincial Government of Formosa set the fisheries production (sea catch and fish culture) goal for 1952 at 148,829 metric tons--51,852 metric tons more than the 1951 production.

The Government plans to obtain Japanese technical cooperation as a means to increase fisheries production, states an American consular dispatch from Taipei dated April 29.



## France

FISHING REELS EXPORTED TO UNITED STATES: Special fishing reels are being manufactured at Cluses, Haute-Savoie, France, solely for export to the United States, where a ready market has been found, according to a May 12 American consular dispatch from Lyon. The value of these exports has risen from almost nothing in 1949 and 1950 to \$130,807 in 1951 and \$115,000 during the first four months of 1952.

The French firm manufacturing these reels states that they are unable to fill all the orders and that they are currently 30,000 units behind. The firm produces approximately 5,000 reels per month, which is its capacity with present facilities. Sixty of its 250 employees are engaged in making the reels.



## German Federal Republic

FIRST TESTS OF GERMAN VESSEL EQUIPPED FOR ELECTRO-FISHING: The German experimental fishing vessel R-96 made the first practical tests with electro-fishing in salt water from April 8 to 10. The tests, which were carried out in Kielerfjord, were quite successful, according to the report of a German correspondent in the April 23 issue of Fiskaren, a Norwegian fishery paper. Both herring and cod were drawn, as if magnetized, to the source of the current. Repeated trials demonstrated that it was possible to assemble widely dispersed schools and even single fish in front of the trawl opening. Cod reacted at a greater distance from the source of the current than herring because of their greater body surface. By using the correct current, small and young fish can be excluded from the magnetic influence of the electrodes so that one can, from the bridge of the vessel, literally sort out the catch according to size and kind before the trawl catches them.

Dr. Meyer stated that these trials have shown the utility of Dr. Kreutzer's method for electro-fishing in the open ocean.

Manufacture of an electro-trawl has begun and it is expected that the gear can be tested in Kieler Bay within a couple of months.

EDITOR'S NOTE: DR. KONRAD KREUTZER IS A GERMAN PHYSICIST WHO DEVELOPED HIS INVENTION THROUGH EARLIER WORK ON AN ELECTRO-SHOCK APPARATUS. DR. P. F. MEYER IS ON THE STAFF OF A FISHERIES INSTITUTE IN HAMBURG. A DESCRIPTION OF DR. KREUTZER'S EARLIER ELECTRO-FISHING EXPERIMENTS IS INCLUDED IN FISHERY LEAFLET 348, WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED FREE FROM THE DIVISION OF INFORMATION, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

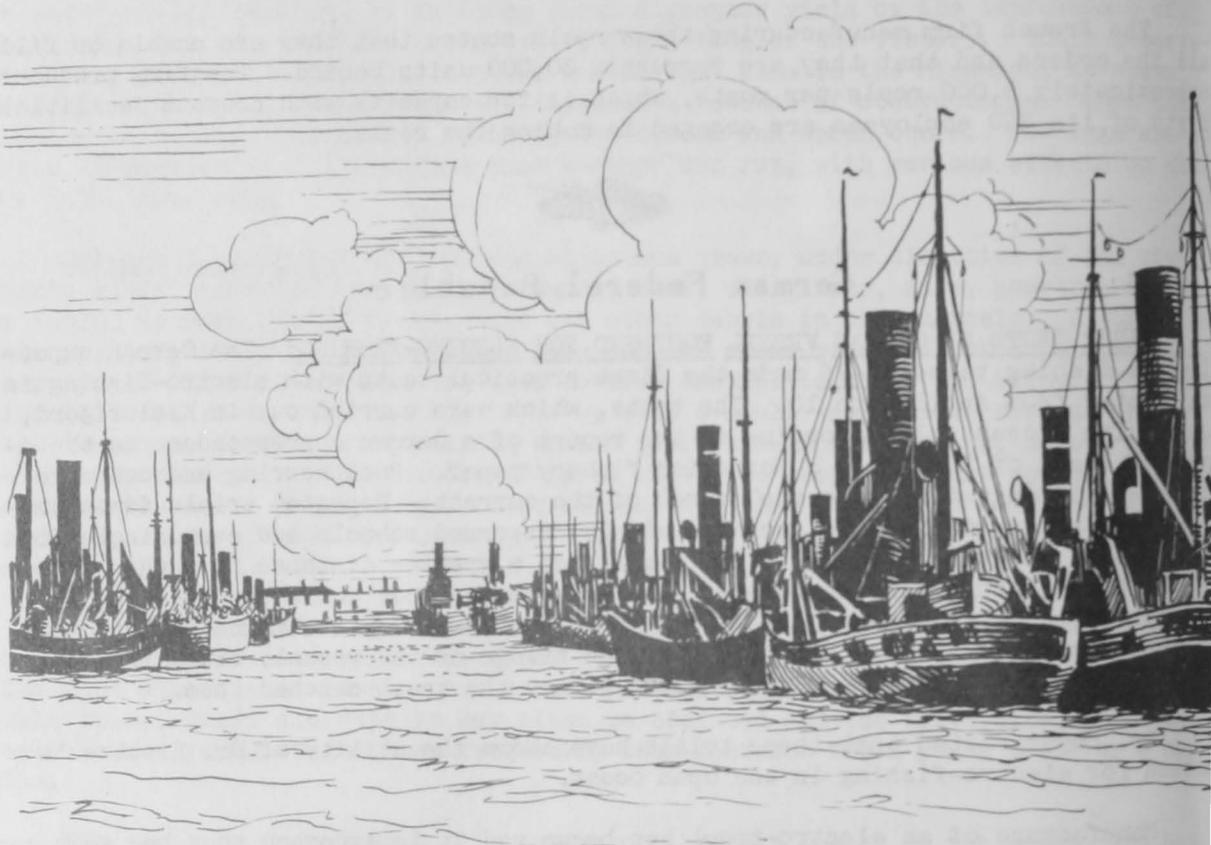
\* \* \* \* \*

GERMAN VIEW ON BRITISH-NORWEGIAN FISHERY DISPUTE: With respect to the World Court decision favoring Norway in the British-Norwegian dispute regarding territorial waters, the Association of German High Sea Fisheries announced that the German fisheries shared the British view that on all coasts only a zone of three nautical miles should be recognized as territorial water, states a March 31 American consular report from Bremerhaven. The Association claims to have supported England in the dispute by the submission of material even though Germany was not directly involved. The German fishing industry fears other Scandinavian countries, particularly Iceland, may follow Norway's example.

\* \* \* \* \*

REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES, 1951: Fishing Fleet Strength, 1951: TRAWLER FLEET: The West German trawler fleet decreased from 230 vessels on January 1, 1951, to 223 on December 31, but increased in tonnage from 93,241 to 96,627 gross metric tons in the same period, according to a March 31 American consular report from Bremerhaven.

During 1951, 13 trawlers were built, 7 were bought from abroad, 2 were lost at sea, and 25 were scrapped. The modernization of the trawler fleet is reflected in the fact that the average age of the ships decreased from 13.7 years on January 1 to 11.6 years on December 31. At the end of the year, German shipyards had orders for approximately 20 new trawlers for the West German fishing industry, ranging from 400 to 600 gross tons.



PORT OF BREMERHAVEN SHOWING FISHING VESSELS IN PORT.

**LUGGER FLEET:** The German lugger fleet increased by 2 vessels in the period January 1 to December 31, 1951. The tonnage increased from 18,716 to 19,651 gross tons in the same period.

**Herring Season in 1951 Shifted to Later in the Year:** The outstanding feature of the 1951 herring season for the West German fisheries was the apparent shifting of the season to a later time of the year.

While the trawl herring catch in July 1951 (the first month of the herring season) was less than in 1949 or 1950, the herring production of German trawlers in November 1951 was more than double that of the previous November. The peak month of herring production, usually September, came in 1951 in October with a catch of 76 metric tons caught by all types of vessels combined.

The 1951 herring season was particularly successful for the West German fisheries because the high prices for fats and oils enabled the fish meal and oil factories to pay relatively high prices (Dm 256 or about US\$60 per metric ton) for the herring that was not used for human consumption.

Retail Prices for Fishery Products: The following are some retail prices for fishery products reported in Bremen and Bremerhaven:

Retail Prices of Certain Fishery Products in the German Federal Republic  
(4th Quarter 1951)

Product	P r i c e	
	DM <sup>1</sup> / Per kilo	U.S.\$ Per lb.
Cod, round, heads off .....	1.3	.14
Haddock, round .....	.83-1.80	.09-.20
Halibut, fillets, iced .....	3.90	.42
Herring:		
Pickled, boned, canned .....	2.33	.25
Pickled, heads off, canned .....	2.20	.24
Fried, pickled, heads off, canned .....	2.00	.22
Pickled, heads off (originally sea-salted) .....	1.60	.17
Round .....	.59-.70	.06-.08
Pollock (coalfish):		
Smoked, salted, artificially colored to resemble smoked salmon, sliced, in oil, canned .....	5.47-6.80	.59-.74
Round, heads off .....	.55-1.27	.06-.14
Rosefish (ocean perch):		
Smoked .....	2.37-2.60	.25-.28
Fillets, iced .....	2.00-2.10	.22-.23
Round, heads off .....	.82-1.40	.09-.15

<sup>1</sup>/ONE DEUTSCHE MARK EQUALS 23.81 U.S. CENTS.

Wholesale Prices for Fishery Products: The following are some wholesale prices for fishery products reported in Bremerhaven:

Wholesale Prices of Certain Fishery Products in the German Federal Republic  
(4th Quarter 1951)

Product	P r i c e	
	DM <sup>1</sup> / Per kilo	U.S.\$ Per lb.
Cod, round .....	.50	.05
Haddock, round .....	.63	.07
Herring, round .....	.27	.03
Pollock (coalfish), round .....	.56	.06
Rosefish (ocean perch), round .....	.52	.05

<sup>1</sup>/ONE DEUTSCHE MARK EQUALS 23.81 U.S. CENTS.

Marketing and Foreign Trade in Fishery Products, 1951: The disposal of West Germany's catch of fishery products in 1951 was facilitated by the high prices paid by the fish meal factories, the decrease in imports, and the increased per-capita consumption of fish.

The average per-capita consumption of fishery products in West Germany in 1951 was about 27.7 pounds of which 22.7 pounds came from German production and 5.0 pounds from imports. The 1950 average per-capita consumption was 24.2 pounds of which 19.4 pounds came from German production and 4.7 pounds from imports. The increased fish consumption was considered due to the increased prices for other foodstuffs, especially meat.

A certain burden was put on the market by the ending of interzonal trade on November 30, 1951, as the West German fishing industry was said to have been setting

aside about 10 percent of its production for deliveries to the Soviet Zone. This fish was not all thrown onto the market immediately, however, as most of it was kept in storage in anticipation of a re-opening of interzonal trade under a barter arrangement.

The main characteristic of the German export trade in fish in the latter part of 1951 was the development of connections with countries not previously supplied by German firms and the growth of a considerable transit trade, in which German firms supplied African and South European markets with dried cod from Norway and Iceland.

Government Measures Affecting Fisheries: The German change-over to an ad-valorem tariff system, which became effective on October 1, 1951, required renegotiation of some trade agreements.

The new 30 percent ad-valorem duty on sardine imports, for example, which are mainly supplied by Portugal and Morocco (now participants in GATT) was expected to be reduced by 14 percent in the new German-Portuguese trade agreement.

The Law for Investment Aid was passed by the German Federal Parliament on December 7, 1951, with an amendment sponsored by the Deutsche Partei exempting the inland, coastal, and inland fisheries from compulsory contributions to the investment fund.

### Germany (Russian Zone)

FISH-PRODUCTION CAPACITY INCREASED: The Eastern Zone of Germany is increasing its capacity for catching and processing fish, according to a German fisheries newspaper, reports the May 24 Canadian Foreign Trade. In the first three months of 1952, four 1,000-metric ton trawlers were completed. In addition, the first fish-meal factory, which is also equipped to produce industrial oils, is in production.

\* \* \* \* \*

INCREASED FISHERIES PRODUCTION INCLUDED IN NEW PLAN: The new Five-Year Plan of the East German government calls for a 500 percent increase in fish production from 1951 to 1955, according to a March 31 American consular report from Bremerhaven. The fishing industry stands in sixth place in the Plan in regard to the planned increases. Fish-processing capacity is to be increased by 81,500 metric tons annually and two new fishery trusts are to be set up.

The West German trade journal Allgemeine Fischwirtschaftszeitung, however, estimates the maximum Soviet Zone fish production capacity for 1952 at not more than 30,000 to 32,000 metric tons. In order to raise the estimated present German Soviet Zone annual per-capita fish consumption of 13.2 pounds to the West German level of 26.4 pounds, it is calculated that the Soviet Zone would need an annual supply of 230,000 metric tons of fish.



### Japan

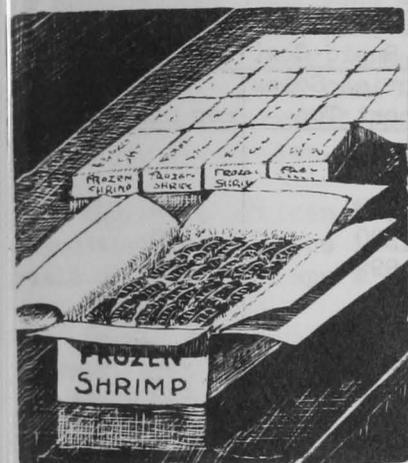
EXPORT BAN ON HERRING OILS LIFTED: The ban on exports of sardine and herring oils by Japanese exporters has been lifted. This new order by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade became effective April 1, 1952.

It is expected that Japan will export 3,000 metric tons of these oils in the coming fiscal year.

## Mexico

GUAYMAS SHRIMP FISHING SEASON ALMOST OVER: Because of the closed season for shrimp placed in effect on March 8, the bays and coastal waters of the Gulf of California, Sinaloa, and Nayarit have been cleared of shrimpers for a month, states an April 4 American consular report from Guaymas.

About two thirds of the Guaymas-based fleet was tied up for maintenance and repairs during the period, while the other third (about fifty boats) left to continue fishing in the Salina Cruz area and on the western coast of Guatemala.



After processing the shrimp landed, the shrimp-freezing plants in Guaymas shut down when the closed season began. The largest of the local plants paid off all employees except a skeletal office and maintenance force until next October. Two others closed in February. It seems doubtful that more than four plants will open for the remaining months of this season. Some intend to open for a trial period and will probably close again after a few weeks. Not more than two are expected to operate until the end of the season.

The total quantity of shrimp delivered in Guaymas in the first five months of the season (Oct.-Feb.) was only 2,520 tons, while the average for the same period in the three previous seasons was more than 3,700 tons.

Fishermen and freezing-plant owners are generally optimistic about the prospects for the 1952-53 shrimping season but expect the industry will have further serious financial difficulties and will undergo some consolidation and reorganization before October.



## Norway

HERRING PRESERVATIVE METHOD DEVELOPED: A new preserving method has been developed which is expected to add to the value of Norway's herring catch by keeping the fish as good as fresh at least three months, states the Norwegian Information Service in a May 22 news release. The new method has been developed by R. Perry Howden of Aalesund.

At a recent demonstration, a variety of dishes made from herring preserved three months earlier according to the new method were served. All agreed that the herring tasted as if it were fresh.

The herring had been packed in barrels under public control. The barrels were then sealed and kept under lock and key at the Customs Office. To eliminate any chance of fraud, a public herring inspector was present when they were opened. Analysis by a chemist from the State Cod Liver Oil Control Service showed the 3-month herring to contain 12.35 percent of fat. Oil pressed and clarified from boiled herring revealed fat acids of only 2.16 percent. The exceptionally low acid content is of special importance in the processing of herring oil.

Industry representatives and herring experts alike were reported most enthusiastic about the sensational preserving method, which they predicted would open new prospects for the storage of herring, both for eating and for processing.

## Peru

NEW CANNED FISH BASIC COST PRICES FOR EXPORT TAXES: New basic cost prices have been established for canned fishery products. These prices are to be used in determining export taxes. A Supreme Resolution was issued on November 9 establishing the new basic prices, which were based on a study of the costs of production of canned fish made by the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture, states a release from Lima.

The following basic cost prices are established for a short ton of 907.184 kilograms (about 2,000 pounds) in fixing export taxes on canned fish (canned tuna, bonito, and others):

Item	Size of Can	Basic Cost Price	
		In Peruvian Soles Per Short Ton	In US\$ Per Short Ton
<u>Canned Fish:</u>			
<u>In Oil:</u>			
Solid pack .....	7 oz. can	9,238	605
Flakes and grated .....	6½ " "	9,220	603
Flakes and grated .....	6 " "	9,892	647
<u>Natural Style (Brine Pack):</u>			
Solid pack and flakes .....	16 oz. can	5,217	341
Solid pack and flakes .....	7 " "	8,025	525
<u>In Tomato Sauce:</u>			
"Partala style" (Calif. sardine style) .....	16 oz. can	6,322	414

For products with weights per can greater than those specified, a basic cost price of 9,238 soles (US\$605) per short ton is established for oil packs and 5,217 soles (US\$341) for natural-style packs. On the other hand, products with weights per can less than those fixed above are assimilated into the nearest class, type, and weight.

NOTE: VALUES CONVERTED ON THE BASIS OF 15.28 SOLES EQUAL US\$1.00.



## Union of South Africa

PILCHARD PRODUCTION INCREASED IN 1951: The South African pilchard industry registered a phenomenal gain in production during 1951, according to a March 21 American consular report from Cape Town.

Production of fish meal reached 55,000 short tons as compared to 28,000 short tons in 1950 and fish body oil production reached 15,500 tons as compared to 14,500 tons in 1950. Output of canned pilchards also rose sharply, reaching an estimated 500 cases (48 1-lb. cans per case) in 1951.

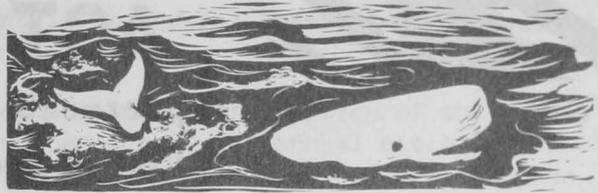
\* \* \* \* \*

TRAWLER CATCH, 1951: The Union of South Africa's trawled fish catch in 1951 was 124,774,123 pounds (excluding offal), with a value of about US\$4,005,716 to the fishermen. These are official statistics compiled by the Division of Fisheries of the Department of Commerce and Industries as reported by an American consular dispatch from Capetown dated May 6. The 1951 trawler catch was 21 percent greater in quantity and was worth 13 percent more.

Declining foreign markets coupled with an increase in domestic fish prices announced in April 1952 are expected to prevent any further increase in the trawler catch during the current year.

\* \* \* \* \*

WHALING INDUSTRY, 1950-51: During the 1950-51 antarctic season the expedition of the Union Whaling Company of Durban, consisting of the factoryship Abraham Larsen and eleven catchers, caught a total of 2,048 whales (1,315.9 blue-whale units) from which were produced 161,900 barrels or about 27,000 long tons of whale and sperm oil and about 2,600 tons of meat meal and liver flakes, a March 21 American consular report from Cape Town states. The British Ministry of Food purchased the entire production. The price paid for whale oil was £100 (US\$278) per longton.



The South African company accounted for the greatest production of all the 19 expeditions. When the limit of 16,000 blue-whale units had been caught, the total yield of whale and sperm oil was slightly over 2,100,000 barrels.

Durban shore-based operations during 1951 were the best in the history of the company, with some 2,112 whales caught yielding a total of 12,112 long tons of whale and sperm oil. The bulk of the whale oil production was sold locally at £95 (US\$264) per long ton and the rest was exported at somewhat higher prices.



#### CANNED CRAB INDUSTRY OF JAPAN

The Japanese technique of catching crabs has changed little during the history of the industry. Tangle nets with a stretched mesh of not less than 18 inches have been used exclusively in the fishery. These nets were set in a long series and left for an indeterminate length of time depending on weather conditions.

Although hand labor was used by Japanese in preparing the crabs, the entire process was placed upon an assembly-line basis both in the land-based canneries and aboard the factory ships, and speed, efficiency, and complete utilization of material were achieved. The actual canning process was the same in factory ships and in land-based canneries.

--Fishery Leaflet 314